

REMARKS

Claims 21-32 are presented for consideration, with claims 21 and 29-32 being independent.

Independent claims 21, 29 and 31 have been amended to further distinguish Applicant's invention from the cited art. The preamble in claim 30 has been changed. Finally, claim 32 has been added to provide an additional scope of protection.

Initially, Applicant notes with appreciation that claim 30 is allowable.

Claims 21-29 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Roehrman '355. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 21 of Applicant's invention relates to an apparatus which reads a code formed on a substrate, and includes a transfer unit which has a holding member for holding a substrate and transfers the substrate, and a reading unit. The reading unit optically reads a code formed on the substrate and, as amended, at least a portion of the reading unit is located on the transfer unit.

Claims 29 and 31 relate to an apparatus used for manufacturing a device and a method used for manufacturing a device, respectively, and have been amended along the same lines as claim 21. In particular, these claims make it clearer that at least a portion of the reading unit is located on a transfer unit.

In accordance with Applicant's claimed invention, a code formed on a substrate can be easily and reliably read. In this manner, the operating efficiency can be improved.

The Roehrman patent relates to a semiconductor wafer identification configuration and an apparatus for processing the semiconductor wafer. As shown in Figure 1, the semiconductor

wafer 12 includes identifying indices 14 provided in a first row 18 and a second row 20. A reading head 30 with light transmitting (36) and light receiving (40) optical fibers scans the information on the wafer.

In contrast to Applicant's claimed invention, however, it is respectfully submitted that Roehrman fails to teach or suggest, among other features, locating at least a portion of the reading unit on the transfer unit. On this point, the Office Action asserts that in Roehrman, when a wafer is stopped at a read station to be scanned by the reading head 30, stop means holds the wafer and is arranged on the transfer unit. It is respectfully submitted, however, that although Roehrman discloses that suitable stop means interrupts a wafer travel at a read station, where it is oriented, scanned with the reading head 30, and released, (Column 3, lines 57-63), there is no teaching or suggestion that the stop means is part of a reading unit or, it follows, that at least a portion of the reading unit is located on the transfer unit.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is respectfully requested.

Therefore, it is submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in independent claims 21, 29 and 31 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent claims 22-28 set forth additional features of Applicant's invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

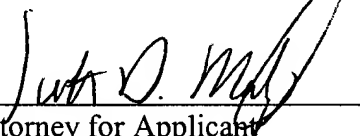
New claim 32 is also submitted to be patentable. Claim 32 relates to an exposure apparatus that includes a transfer unit, a reading unit and an exposure unit. As in allowed claim 30, the exposure unit performs an exposure process using the substrate based on code read by the

reading unit. Claim 32 also features that the reading unit optically reads a code formed on the substrate, and at least a portion of the reading unit is located on the transfer unit.

Applicant further submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objection and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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